Numb. 14

The English LUCIAN:

OR,

Weekly Diſcoveries

OF THE

Witty Intrigues, Comical Paſſages, and Remarkable Tranſactions in *Town* and *Country*: Being Reflections on the *Vices* and *Vanities* of the *Times*.

From Monday *April* 4. to Monday *April* 11.

Bloomsbury-Market, April 4th.

A Young Cheating *Baker* near this place, who had, with much ado, got over Six of his Seven Years Servitude; and in that time had ſo perfectly learnt his Trade, that he could Cheat his Maſter when he pleas'd; He thinking perhaps, the old Proverb (*Tis no Sin to Cheat the Cheater*) would bear him out in his evil practices, or it may be he did it out of Compaſſion to ſeveral of the Poor and Covetous Neighbours; and this is moſt likely, for it has been his cuſtom, ſince Bread has been dear, to Steal Half-Peck Loaf's from his Maſter, and ſell them to ſome of the *Beggar-makers*, of this place, for Six Pence and Eight Pence and a Pot *per* Loaf: Nay his Charity extended yet farther, for ſeveral *Underlayers of Mens Underſtandings*, Vulgarly called *Cobblers*, found the comfortable effects of his Bounty, buying Bread much cheaper of him than they could of any *Pinch-belly* there abouts. So long did this evil deſpos'd Young *Crack-Rope* continue this trade, that his Maſter alſo began to feel the effects of his Charity, for the Filling thoſe Peoples Bellys did ſenſibly Empty his Shop, which made him very Induſtrious to find out his unknown Cuſtomers, and it was not long, ere he made a perfect Diſcovery; upon which the Young Trader, finding he could not hold it, went off with as much ſpeed as tho' the Devil had been at his Breech with a flaming Wreſtling-Pole, leaving behind him a true account of his whole Dealings.

Stocks-Market, April 5. At the Sign of the *Bird* and *Baby* in this place, is to be ſeen a Fellow whom ſome Perſons think to be Lineally deſcended from *Methridatus* King of *Pontus*, others ſay he is the great, great Grandſon of *Paracelſus*, and that he has in his ſtomach the very ſame Antidote againſt *Poiſon*, as he uſed to carry in the Hilt of his Sword: For he'll Eate live *Toads* as faſt a *Cockney* can *Cuſtards*; nay he'll devour Live *Adders* and *Snaks*, with as much greedineſs as a Weaver does *Sprats*.

Strand, April 6. A Butcher of this Neighbourhood having ſold a parcel of meat to a Cuſtomer, ſent him home his bargain, and with it (by miſtake) a Leg of *Mutton* that ought to have gone to a Ladies in *Wiſtminſter*. Whereupon coming to rectifie the miſtake, and finding his Chapman ſo juſt as to reſtore him his own, he began to laugh at his integrity, and to tell him he ought to have eaten it for his ſake. The man having been uſed to Waggeries of this kind, was beforehand with him in his jeſt; for having taken the Leg of Mutton out of the Cloth it was wrapt in, he carefully put a ſtone of about the ſame weight in the ſtead of it: However the Butcher without the leaſt diſtruſt carrying it to the Ladies houſe, warranted it to be the biggeſt in *Weſtminſter*, and that it weighed near two ſtone, but the Cook-maid peeping into the Cloth, and perceiving the cheat, would needs hold him a Wager that it was not above one ſtone, which wager the Butcher accordingly accepted, and loſt, as well by the judgement of the Company as his own Confeſſion. However, mad at heart, he returns to his Chapman, and very furiouſly demands his Leg of Mutton, not without ſome mixture of threatning, and abuſive language: But he being a ſly younſter, told him very drily that *Exchange was no Robery*; and in ſhort, forc'd the Butcher to go back and fetch the Stone, before he would deliver him his Meat, and then having heartily laugh'd at him for his pains, he ſent him about his buſineſs.

Southwark, April 7. A fellow of an amphibious profeſſion that deals ſometimes in Fiſh and ſometimes in Fleſh, had ſollicited a Neighbours Wife to ſin, ſo long till at laſt, wearied with his importunity, ſhe complained of him to her Husband, who order'd her ſeemingly to yeild to his deſires, and at a time they ſhould agree upon to admit him to her bed. The Fellow upon the next interview, was overjoy'd at the welcome news of her ſeeming complyance, and expecting the happy hour with an amorous impatience, came as preciſely at the time appointed as an Uſurer upon the forfeiture of a Bond, or the expiration of a Mortgage. No ſooner had he uncas'd himſelf to his ſhirt, but his unkind bed-fellow gave the ſignal to her Husband, who lying in ambuſcade with a friend of his in the next room, came out with two ſhort Wips, and ſo jerked the Amoroſo that that he has ever ſince complained to his Wife